

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-06 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00 USIA-15

EB-07 IO-10 /067 W

----- 015908

P R 220140Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 685

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0681

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, PP

SUBJ: TIDAL WAVE AND SHOCKS HIT BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND

1. THE FIRST SHOCK REGISTERING SEVEN ON THE RICHTER SCALE OCCURRED AT 0040A.M. ORIGINATING 30 KILOMETRES BELOW THE SOLOMON SEA, 50 KILOMETRES OFF THE SOUTHWEST TIP OF BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A FIVE-FOOT SWELL SWEPT ALONG THE WEST COAST. SMALLER SHOCKS FOLLOWED, AND WERE STILL BEING REPORTED AT 4:00 P.M. THE MAIN AFTER-SHOCK SOON AFTER DAWN WAS STRENGTH SIX. THE SHOCKS WERE FELT ALL OVER SOUTHERN BOUGAINVILLE. SOME WERE FELT IN RABAU, 400 KILOMETRES ACROSS THE SOLOMON SEA.

2. THE TIDAL WAVE CAUSED LITTLE DAMAGE ON BOUGAINVILLE WHERE NINE FAMILIES ARE REPORTED HOMELESS. THUS FAR THERE ARE NO REPORTED CASUALTIES. WATER DAMAGED THE VHF RADIO STATION AT TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE'S MAIN COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH THE REST OF PNG AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD. AN EMERGENCY LINK HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN ARAWA AND LAE. CENTRAL BOUGAINVILLE AREAS UNCLASSIFIED

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COULD BE WITHOUT OUTSIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES FOR

UP TO A MONTH.

3. BUIN, LOCATED AT THE SOUTHERN END OF BOUGAINVILLE, SUFFERED SOME DAMAGE TO POWER LINES AND THE ROAD WAS DESCRIBED AS "MILDLY DANGEROUS" FROM THERE TO KIETA IN CENTRAL BOUGAINVILLE.

4. THERE WERE SOME LANDSLIDES IN THE BOUGAINVILLE COPPER MINE AREA, BUT MINE GENERAL MANAGER D.G. VERNON SAID PRODUCTION HAD NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED.

5. THERE ARE AS YET NO REPORTS AVAILABLE HERE ON EFFECTS OF SHOCKS TO SOLOMON ISLANDS.

6. CONGEN HAS NO REPORTS OF ANY AMERICANS BEING INVOLVED IN AREAS HIT BY TIDAL WAVE OR SHOCKS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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06 JUL 2006

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